



American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
1755 Abbey Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.332.2222  
www.acscan.org

The Honorable Wayne Schmidt, Chairman  
Senate Commerce Committee  
820 Farnum Building  
Lansing, MI 48933

December 2, 2015

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide perspective on Senate Bill 476. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network stands opposed to Senate Bill 476 and urge the legislature to allow the cap on the cigar tax to expire.

Cigars are a public health risk and a leading cause of laryngeal, oral and esophageal cancers. Unfortunately, sales of cigars continue unabated. Cigar use among youth is on the rise - almost as common as cigarette smoking. Under the current structure sales of cigars in Michigan has increased. With the increase, the potential increase in cancer continues to grow. We support a common sense tax structure that ensures all cigars, regardless of size, are taxed at rates equivalent to cigarettes.

The amount of tobacco tax that was collected last year was just under \$1 billion, yet the state only invests \$1.6 million in prevention efforts. Enacting a tax that is high enough to deter Michiganders from using a tobacco product can lead to many choosing to quit. However, when different types of tobacco products are taxed at different rates, lower-taxed products are cheaper than they would be if all tobacco products were taxed at an equivalent rate. This tax parity helps reduce tax evasion, generate more revenue, and ensure more tobacco users quit instead of switching to a cheaper product.

Please consider the impact on Michigan's health that Senate Bill 476 has. We need to eliminate the cap on the cigar tax rather than allow it to continue in perpetuity. Tobacco use is responsible for one third of all cancers and remains the most preventable cause of death in our state. Please put Michigan first and help us curb cancer and the use of tobacco products and oppose Senate bill 476. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Andrew R. Schepers  
ACSCAN

c: Members of the Senate Commerce Committee

Contributions or gifts to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax-deductible because we use your donations to support our citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts to end cancer.